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IV. ADMISSIONS AND STUDENT AID

The desirability of faculty participation in the selection of students and the need for prompt, efficient handling of applications have at times worked at cross purposes with each other in matters of admissions and student aid. For a number of years the work was done by two committees. Such a pattern required double handling of student records. To eliminate this duplication the committees were combined. At this point the size of the committee proved cumbersome. Finding a time at which twelve faculty and staff members could convene was practically impossible. As a result the attendance of many members was occasional. When they were able to attend, they found themselves unfamiliar with actions taken at earlier meetings. This fact in itself increased the time required to conduct the business at hand. Furthermore, the size of the committee made long discussion inevitable. The result was long and weary meetings!

A second step seemed in order. The committee was reduced in size. Two faculty members continue as Chairman and Associate Chairman. The Registrar (who also serves as Director of Admissions) is the Secretary. Other members include the Dean of Men and the Dean of Women, the Admissions Counselor, and the Comptroller. The reduction in the size of the committee has facilitated not only the assembling of the full committee, but also increased the efficiency and speed with which applications can be handled.

Within the committee itself an effort has been made to allocate responsibility so that the work may be done without unduly burdening any one member. The Registrar, in his capacity as Director of Admissions, is empowered to accept without committee action all students

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in non-restricted categories who fully meet the requirements for admission. This means that well over fifty per cent of students accepted now appear before the entire committee only in terms of their being reported as accepted. All letters relative to admission are channeled through the Registrar's Office.

Inquiries for information and applications for scholarships and student aid go to the Admissions Office. This Admissions Counselor handles the correspondence answering requests for catalogues and information. The Associate Chairman takes responsibility for directing the Honor Scholarship and Leadership Award competition. This involves visits to the local high schools, processing the applications, and correspondence with the winners in the competition. The chairman assumes general oversight of the work of the Committee and particular responsibility for processing the student aid applications and corresponding with individual applicants after the Committee has acted.

One task is assigned to the Alumni Secretary, who is not on the Committee; namely, the administration of the program of campus employment. His willingness rather than his office has probably secured this assignment. The work has been well done. Nonetheless it does not appear to be organizationally sound in that the person who has the most knowledge about the employment picture is absent from committee meetings. Consequently for both him and the Committee, the problem of communication is a real one.

Another activity, that of thanking donors of named scholarships and requesting the recipients of such scholarships to do the same, is shared by the Admissions Counselor and the Chairman.

The primary difficulty in the above organization seems obvious - the problem of coordination. The successful operation of the Committee in terms of its scholarship and student aid program rests on the efficiency of the Assistant Admissions Counselor, who is charged with the responsibility of maintaining all the records and correspondence centered in the Admissions Office. The college has been fortunate in securing able persons to assume this responsibility.

There is nothing utopian about the above scheme of organization. It appears to be the best pattern thus far. That it functions smoothly and effectively rests more upon the cooperation and untiring efforts of the members of the committee rather than upon the ideal nature of the organization.

Admissions Policy and Procedure

1. While the college catalogue does not limit eligibility for admission to those with high class ranking in secondary school, the following five year tabulation shows that in practice the Committee confines acceptances largely to those in the first and second quarters. Acceptances from the third and fourth quarters are usually limited to students attending college-preparatory schools that send practically all graduates to college.

	%1st Qtr.	%2nd Qtr.	%3rd Qtr.	%4th Qtr.
1953	66	21	7	6
1954	65	19	11	5
1955	69	18	11	2
1956	68	22	7	3
1957	66	19	12	3

2. In the Bulletin the College publishes annually (see CATALOG 1957-58, pp. 28 ff.) a pattern of high school credits, included in which are four units of English, two units of one foreign language, two units of algebra, one unit of plane geometry, with enough additional credits in the same fields, plus history, social science, and natural science to make thirteen. Free electives are allowed for the remaining three units, though students who correspond early are urged to make their electives college preparatory as far as possible. Exceptions to the pattern are made only when the student's record otherwise is unusually promising. Not all of the smaller high schools are equipped to offer a second year of language or algebra, and the exceptions rarely extend beyond waiving the second year in these subjects. Of the 200 freshmen who entered the college in September, 1957, 163 complied with the recommended pattern and 37 did not. If teacher shortages in our high schools can be met, these exceptions which now seem necessary will decline toward the vanishing point.

3. Freshmen entering in September, 1957, were required to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test of the College Entrance Examination Board, and the Committee was able to enforce the requirement 100%. Mean scores obtained by freshmen were as follows:

	Men	Women	Men and Women
Verbal Aptitude	438	500	475
Mathematical Aptitude	517	471	488

These means compare favorably with the national means obtained by all students who took the test in March, 1957. However, scores for the entering class of 1958 were substantially higher.

4. Details of all applications received and processed by the Committee for the past two years are shown in the following table (Exhibit A). The decline in total applications from 1956 to 1957 was a temporary reversal of a trend and may have been due to the introduction of the College Board tests. For September, 1958, applications already exceed in number the complete total for 1956 and will probably run over 500 by September, 1958.

Unfortunately, a disproportionate percentage of applications are from young women for the residence halls. A "reading committee" of the regular Committee members undertakes to study all features of the girls' files and to grade them with the letters A, B, C, and D, as representing their probable grade averages at Southwestern. The full Committee then considers the report of the "reading committee" and uses the report as a basis for action on the applications. The full Committee considers in addition to the reading report such features as geographical location, church membership, alumni relationship, and any other matters that should enter into the Committee's decision. Preference is given to Presbyterians from the four cooperating Synods, but the Committee does not wish to provincialize the college by making this feature all-important. Excellent students from other sections of the country are of value not only in building campus scholarship but in providing different backgrounds and interests in the student body.

5. Withdrawals before graduation, once a serious worry of the Committee, have been declining in recent years. School authorities say that the two principal reasons for withdrawal, regardless of those alleged by the student, are finances and scholastic difficulties. Except for the rather minor relief that can be offered by the program

EXHIBIT A

DETAILS OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Regular Students Only

	September, 1956			September, 1957		
	M	W	T	M	W	T
Freshmen registered	96	110	206	99	106	205
Transfers registered	31	16	47	25	23	48
Totals	127	126	253	124	129	253
Refused Admission:						
Day Students	10	3	13	7	3	10
Boarding Students	17	29	46	9	63	72
Cancelled or Did Not Come:						
Day Students	30	26	56	3	19	22
Boarding Students	28	42	70	6	30	36
Total applications considered	212	226	438	149	244	393
Percent productive	60	56	58	83	53	65

Note: Use of the College Board scores reduced the number but improved the quality of our applicants.

Malcolm Evans, Registrar

January 17, 1958

of scholarships, grants, and work, the Committee cannot cope with the first reason. It does, however, recognize a duty to reduce withdrawals for scholastic causes, and is trying to do so by every means it feels free to use. So long as applications from girls exceed by the present wide margin those from boys, little screening is attempted with the latter. As shown above, in September, 1957, only 16 men were refused admission out of the total of 149 applying. In contrast, 66 women were refused, in addition to 49 who canceled, and of these 49, a total of about 30 did so because they were unwilling to wait out an uncertain situation on the waiting list. This differentiation in its treatment of the two sexes, which the Committee feels is practically forced upon it if the present enrollment and the present ratio between men and women are to be maintained, results in a marked superiority in scholarship among girls, who for some years have all but monopolized Phi Beta Kappa and the various academic awards and mentions for which the sexes compete together. This situation may cure itself by 1960, that being the year when the actuaries and experts in prognoses say that the tidal wave of students will reach its crest and presumably inundate colleges with a flood of men as well as women.

Student Aid Policy and Procedure (See Exhibit B)

1. All applications for scholarships or student aid are carefully considered by the whole Committee. Decisions are committee decisions; no member possesses the power of making an award unilaterally. This procedural policy comes from the Committee's awareness of its responsibility to the college with its restricted budget, to the student with the rising costs of education, and to the church and benefactors of the college with their desire that each contribution count for the most.

EXHIBIT B

STUDENTS RECEIVING AID

1956-1957

Seniors	Juniors	Sophomores	Freshmen	Total
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	205 xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	67 xx	xx
xx	xx	59 xx	xx	xx
34 xx	45 xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx

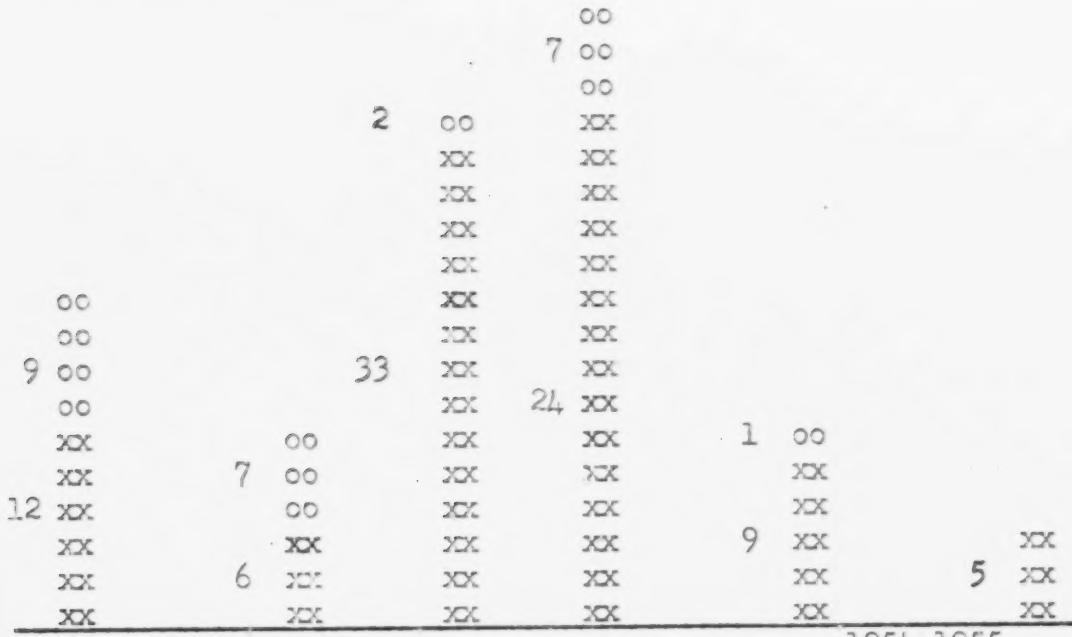
1957-1958

Seniors	Juniors	Sophomores	Freshmen	Total
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	201 xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
xx	xx	xx	75 xx	xx
xx	xx	59 xx	xx	xx
xx	42 xx	xx	xx	xx
25 xx	xx	xx	xx	xx

EXHIBIT B

Number of Students Granted Aid (Cancelled = Red
(Accepted = Black

1953-1954



1954-1955

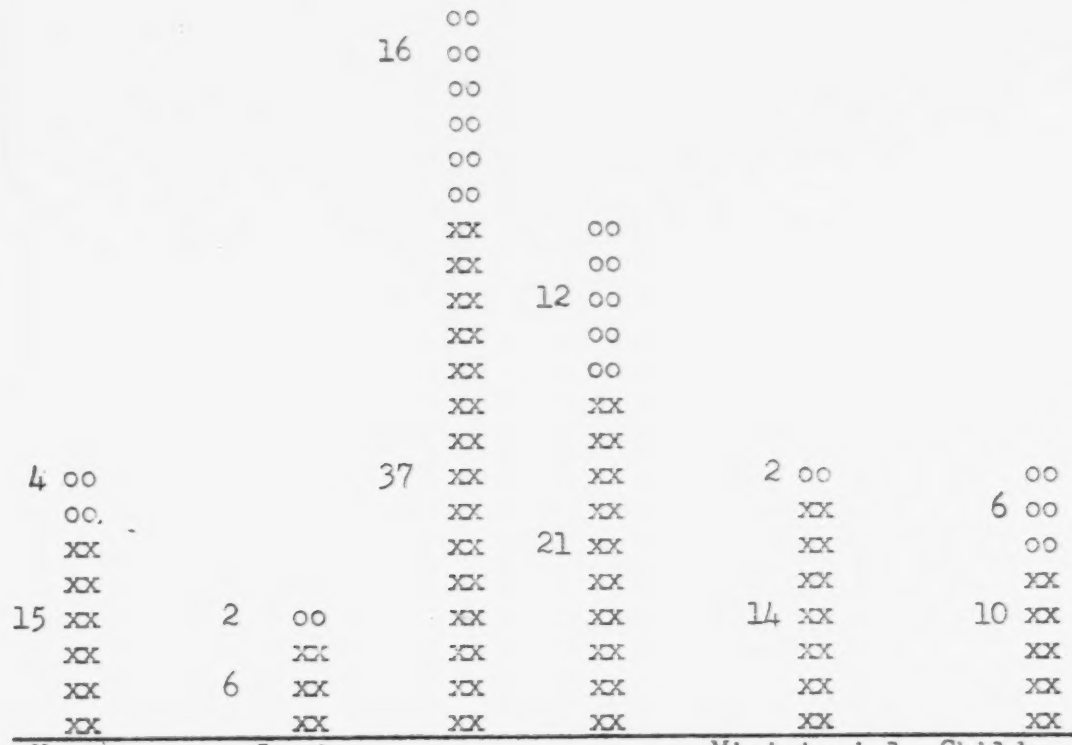


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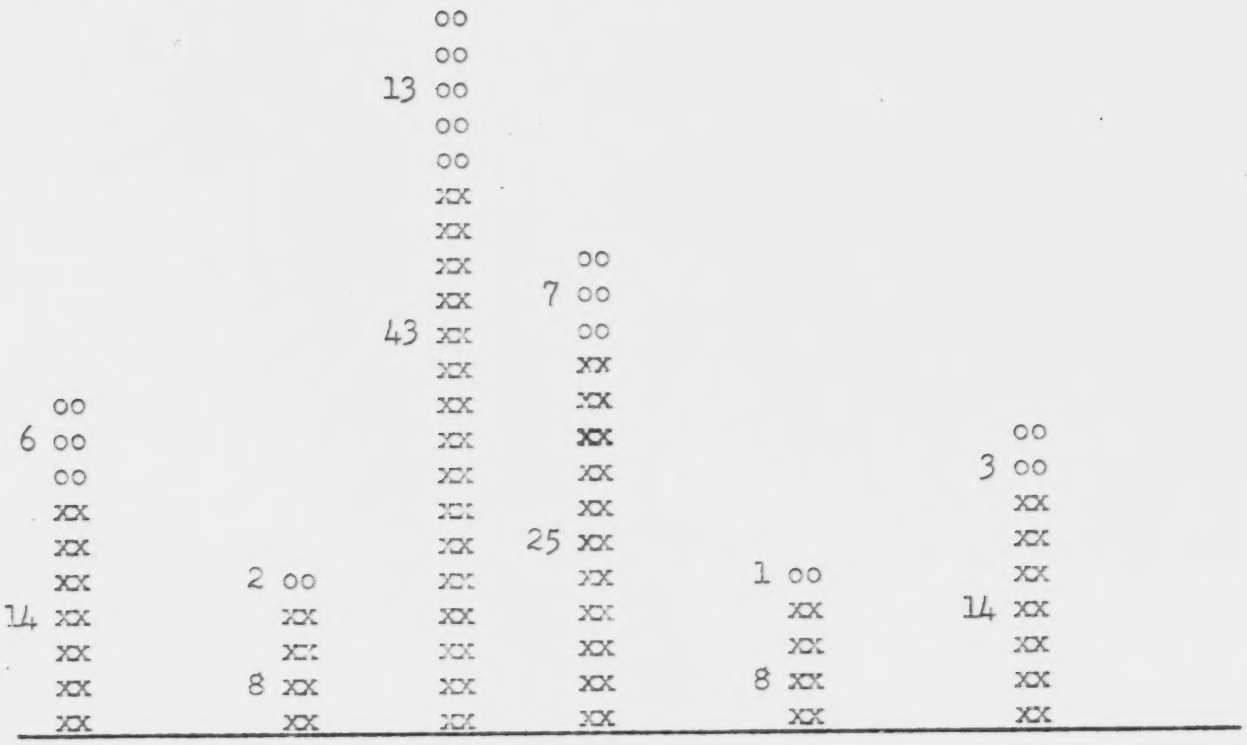
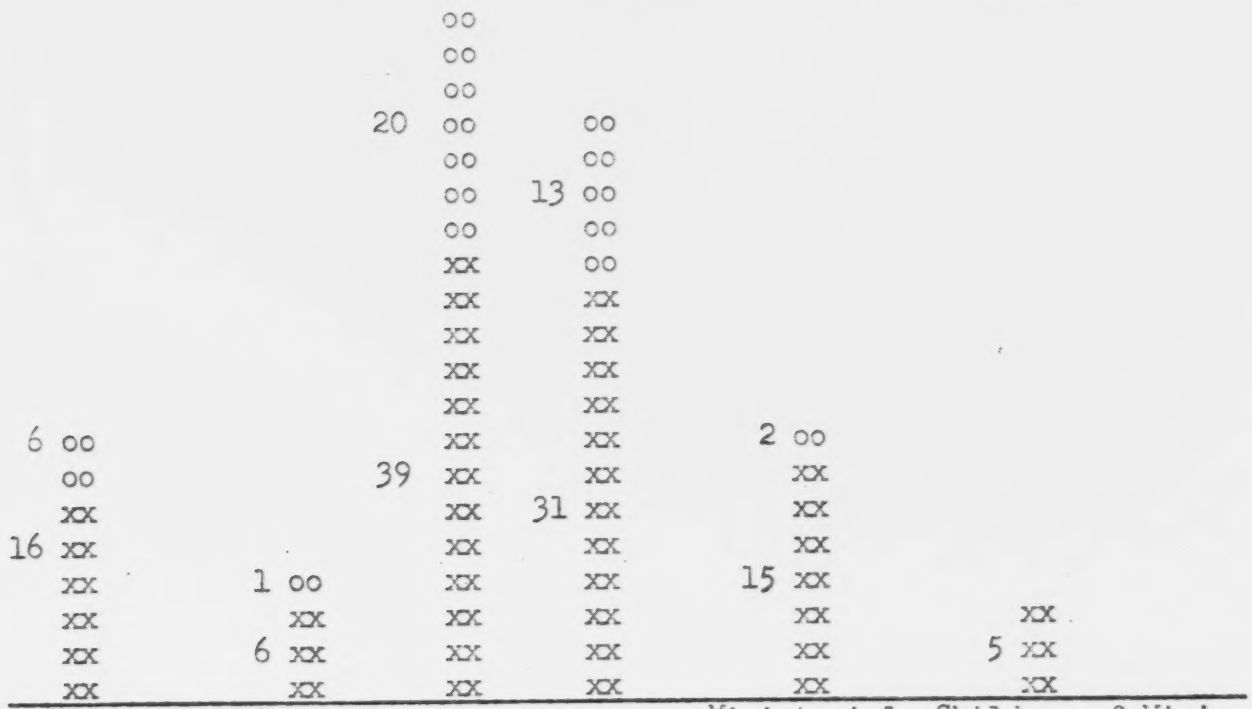
Exhibit B - Table of Students Granted Aid - Continued

1955-56



1956-57



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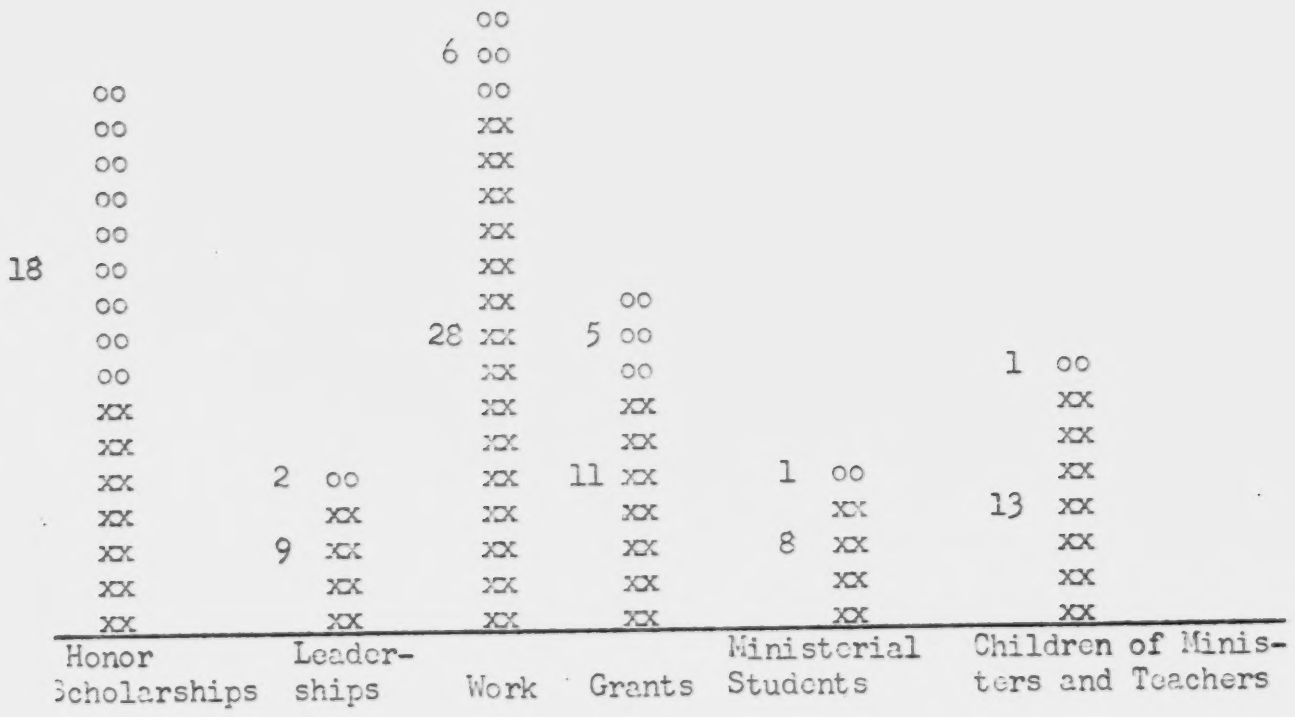
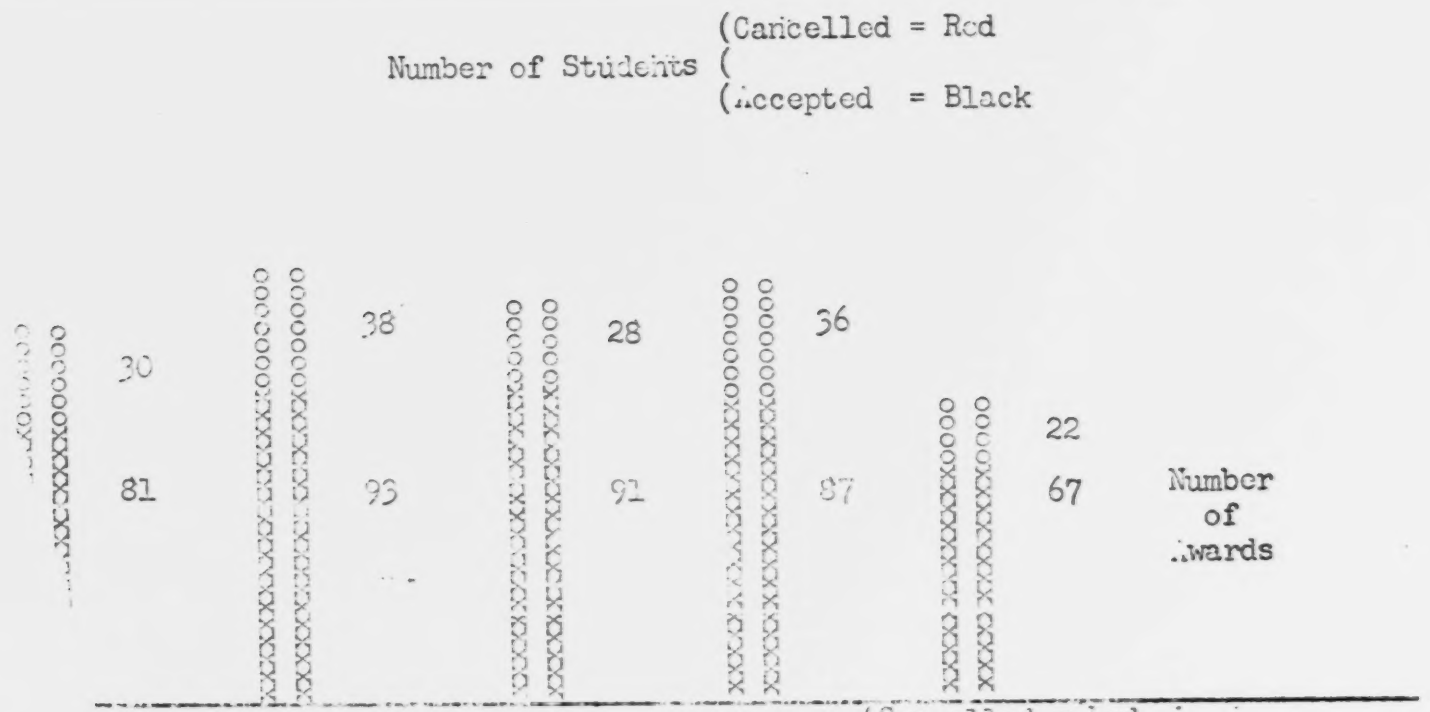
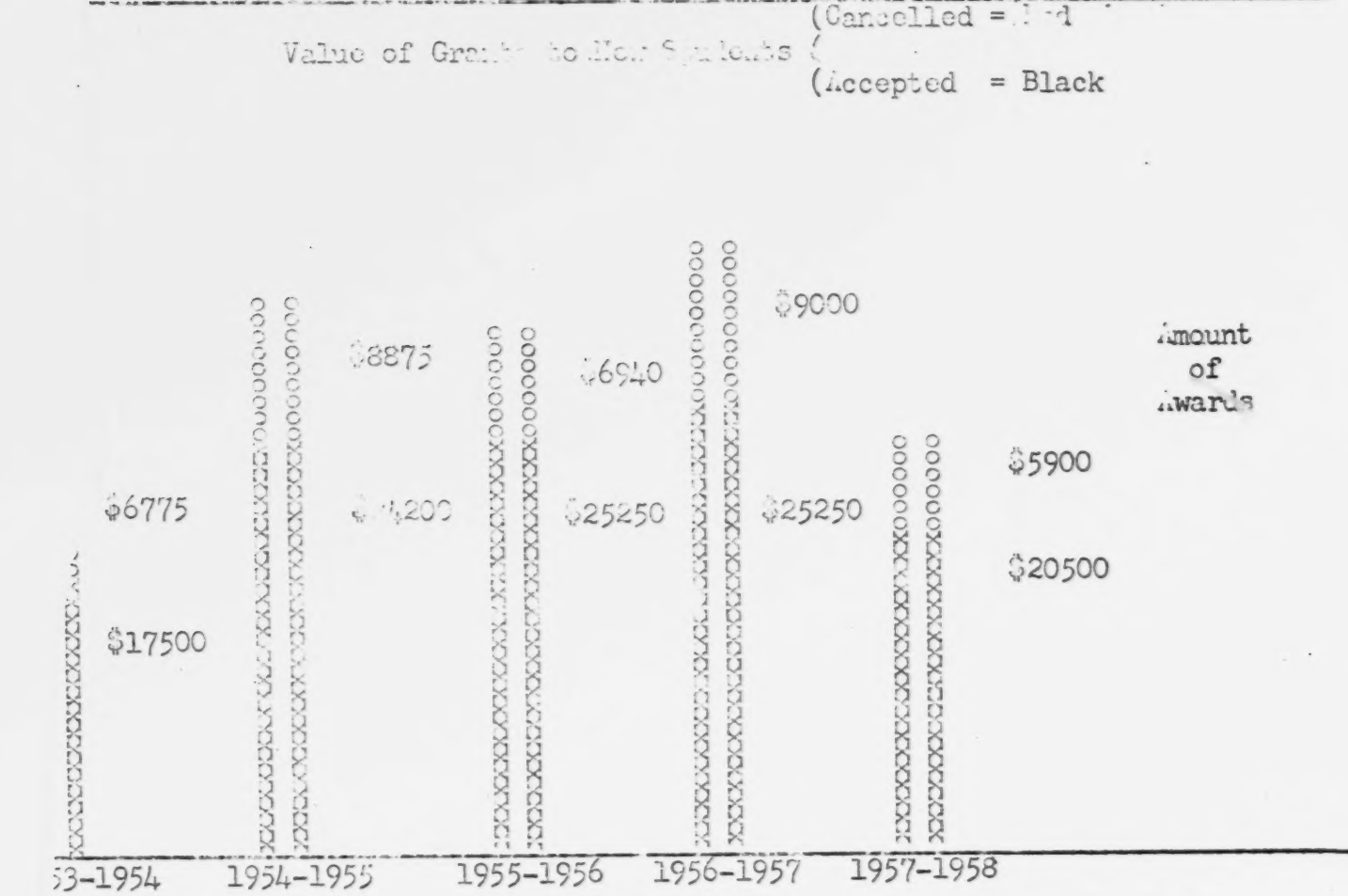
Exhibt B - Table of Students Granted Aid - Continued

1957-58

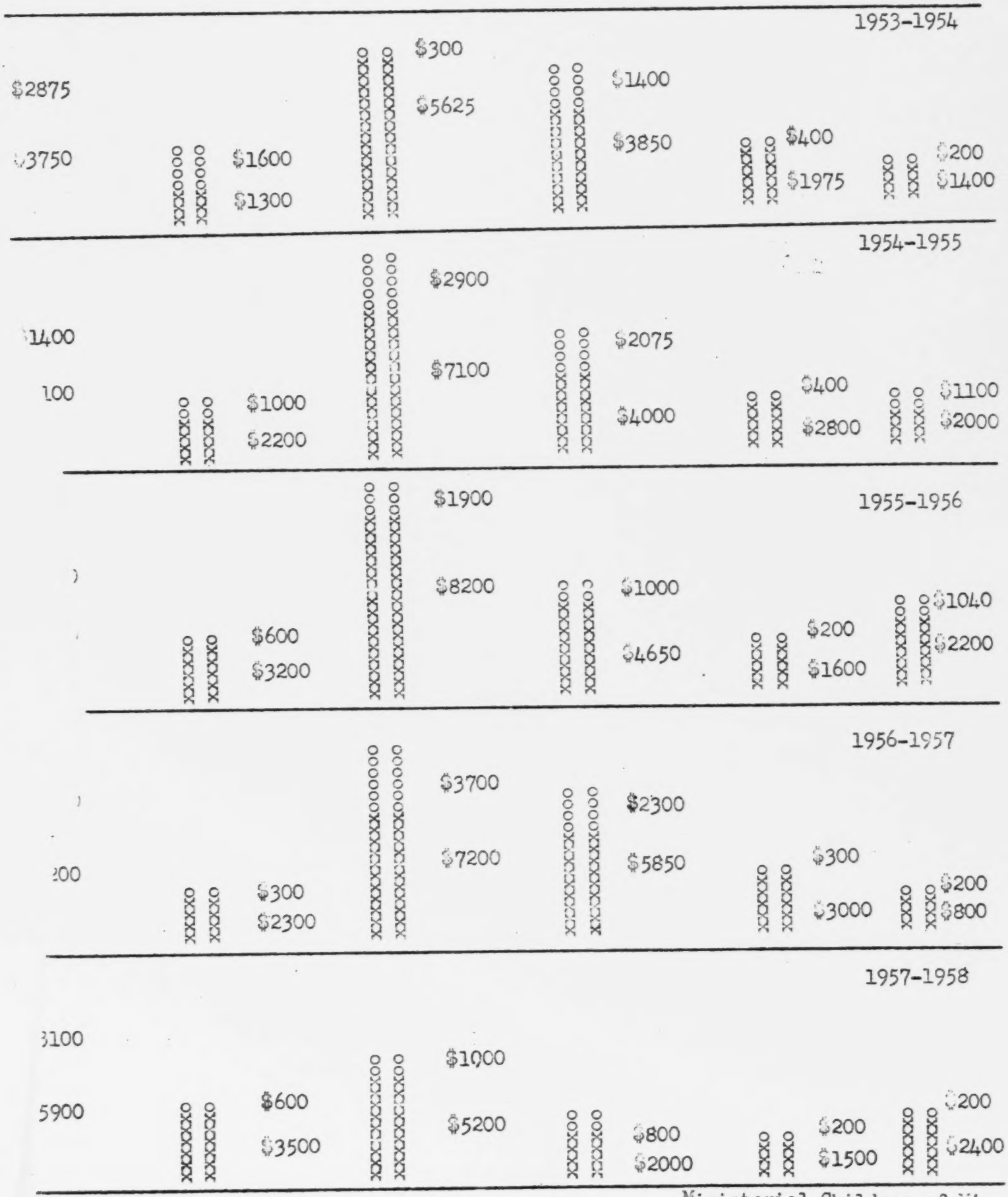


Total Number of New Students Granted Aid by the Committee





Value of Grants (Cancelled = Red
(Accepted = Black



Immediate decisions do not find solution merely in the recognition of responsibility. The Committee has a keen awareness of the need for establishing adequate criteria by means of which particular choices can be made. In general, academic excellence and high moral and personality qualifications afford the primary basis upon which judgments may rest. Other factors such as children of Alumni(ae), members of the four supporting Synods, or outstanding participation in extra-curricular activities must be taken into consideration. (See C.T.LOG 1957-58, pp. 33-35.)

2. Two problems in particular face the Committee at the present time. Both come to focus in consideration of membership in the Southern College Agreement. (See Exhibit C.) The first raised the question of awarding top monetary scholarships without considering financial need. This pattern has been a most successful one in the past through the Honor Scholarship Program. The Committee must now consider, however, whether the time has come to reserve all finanical aid for those students who have need.

The second problem involves the difficulty of ascertaining just what aid is honestly needed. At present a brief statement from the parents respecting their own financial status is required. The data presented do not enable the Committee to make an accurate estimate of need. Further, a parent's understanding of his own need varies widely. Indeed, it appears that the indigent and careless, those who feel that any scholarship is "earned" by his child, those who refuse to consider education as something that should disturb "expenditures as usual," and those whoseconscience has been unduly stretched by annual income tax reports may receive the greatest amourt of aid. They have no hesitancy in holding out their hands. Perhaps the answer again lies in joining

EXHIBIT C

SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT

The growing complexity of the national situation regarding college scholarships presents increasingly serious problems for both colleges and applicants. In order to achieve greater uniformity and equity in the allocation of scholarship funds, the Southern colleges and universities here listed have agreed upon a common philosophy and procedure in making awards:

1. A scholarship recipient should be chosen on the bases of promise and achievement.

2. The amount of a scholarship should be determined on the basis of need, and the award of large "prize" scholarships to individuals who are not in need is regarded as educationally unsound.

3. It is desirable for colleges to consult one another in establishing the size of a stipend for a common applicant in order that the candidate may choose his college rather than his stipend.

4. The amount of a stipend depends on the applicant's financial status. It therefore represents confidential information which should not be made public by the college, the school, or the candidate, whether or not the award of a scholarship is publicly announced.

5. Each applicant for a scholarship at one or more of these institutions must take the College Entrance Examination Board Scholastic Aptitude Test, and must submit detailed financial information to the College Scholarship Service for transmittal to the institutions concerned.

6. A candidate for scholarships or grants who is applying to more than one of the institutions below will not be required to give any of these institutions notice of his acceptance before April 1, 1958, or in less than two weeks after the date of the award, whichever is later. This will allow him to examine all possibilities open to him.

IMPORTANT: Each applicant is cautioned that he must make separate inquiry and application to each of these institutions by which he wishes to be considered, and that he must fulfill all requirements set forth by each institution which are not in conflict with this agreement.

CENTRE COLLEGE OF KENTUCKY
Danville, Kentucky

DAVIDSON COLLEGE
Davidson, North Carolina

EMORY UNIVERSITY
Emory University, Georgia

FURMAN UNIVERSITY
Greenville, South Carolina

ROLLINS COLLEGE
Winter Park, Florida

STETSON UNIVERSITY
DeLand, Florida

TRANSYLVANIA COLLEGE
Lexington, Kentucky

TULANE UNIVERSITY
New Orleans, Louisiana

UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH
Sewanee, Tennessee

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
Nashville, Tennessee

WASHINGTON & LEE UNIVERSITY
Lexington, Virginia

College Agreement and utilizing the services of the College Scholarship Service. Yet problems would still remain. The cost to the college for truly needy students would mount - and their number is legion. Further the mass of detail and red tape necessary to consider each applicant would be multiplied.